WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer system, said computer system programmed to:

provide a single system available over a global communications network for shipping management for each parcel from a plurality of parcels that each Shipper of a plurality of Shippers ships using any one of a plurality of services offered by any one of a plurality of carriers.

2. A method using a computer system, said method comprising:

providing a single system available over a global communications network for shipping management for each parcel from a plurality of parcels that each Shipper of a plurality of Shippers ships using any one of a plurality of services offered by any one of a plurality of carriers.

3. A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for execution by a computer system, said computer program product comprising:

a set of program instructions for providing a single system available over a global communications network for shipping management for each parcel from a plurality of parcels that each Shipper of a plurality of Shippers ships using any one of a plurality of services offered by any one of a plurality of carriers.

4. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

limit an identification of a plurality of carriers for selection by a second user according to a set of carriers from a plurality of carriers according to a set of specifications of a first user.

5. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

customize a calculation and display of itemized charges and a total for payment by a second user according to a set of itemized charge presentation preferences from a plurality of itemized charge presentation options according to a set of itemized charge presentation preferences specified by a first user.

6. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

collect as itemized charge presentation preferences of a first user a user input from the first user of an identification of itemized charge presentation options; and

store in a database the itemized charge presentation preferences of the first user.

7. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

limit an identification of a plurality of payment methods for selection by a second user according to a set of preferred payment methods from a plurality of payment methods according to a set of specifications of a first user.

8. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

collect as preferred payment methods of a first user a first user input of the first user of a selection of at least one payment method from a plurality of payment method; and

store in a database the preferred payment methods of the first user.

9. A computer system for performing a set of actions for a plurality of users, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, said computer system programmed to:

create at a linkable address on a server computer an electronic commerce site from which a second user can perform a particular activity, the particular activity characterized by a set of options, in accordance with a particular first user's option preferences.

10. A computer system for performing a set of actions for a plurality of users, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, said computer system programmed to:

create a hypertext link template containing variable data and global communications address fields;

collect user input of data from a first user;

populate a plurality of variable data fields in the hypertext link template with the collected user input data; and

populate at least one global communications address field with a universal address location corresponding to an address at which program instructions for processing the data in the variable data fields is located.

11. A computer system for performing a set of actions for a plurality of users, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, said computer system programmed to:

collect from a first user service information about a service to be provided by the first user;

collect from a second user requesting the service from the first user information about delivery of the service; and

prepare information about the service according to the requesting information provided by the second user and the service information provided by the first user.

12. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

collect from a first user having access to a first computer device a set of information comprising: parcel specifications for shipping a particular parcel, shipping preferences, and selling preferences; and

collect from a second user having access to a second computer device a set of

recipient information comprising: a destination zip code, a selection of a carrier and a selection of a service offered by the selected carrier.

13. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

generate a unique tracking number for each parcel to be shipped using a multi-carrier, shipping system.

14. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

identify a relationship between a generated unique tracking number and a corresponding parcel; and

store each generated unique tracking number and the corresponding parcel relationship in a database.

15. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

generate a unique tracking number for each parcel to be shipped using the system wherein each parcel is characterized by a set of parcel specifications and each shipment of each parcel is characterized by a set of shipment specifications.

16. A computer system for performing a set of actions for a plurality of users, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, said computer system programmed to:

notify a first user that a second user has refused to complete purchase of an item after a point in time that the second user has indicated to the first user that the second user wanted to purchase the item, and after a point in time that the first user has indicated to the second user that the item is available to the second user for purchase, but before the second user has provided delivery and payment information to the first user.

17. A computer system for performing a set of actions for a plurality of users, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, said computer system programmed to:

collect as refusal information an input by a particular second user of a refusal to complete a purchase from a particular first user.

18. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

generate a shipping log entry to a shipping log of a first user in response to a shipping selection by a second user of a service and carrier, wherein said shipping log entry contains a unique identifier corresponding to a particular item to be shipped and further corresponding to a database entry for the particular item further containing information corresponding to the selected service and carrier.

19. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

recognize as a selection of a carrier and a service a selection by the second user of a particular shipping rate from an online interactive comparison display, said shipping rate corresponding to the selected carrier and the selected service shipping a particular item; and

generate an entry to a shipping log of a second user for shipping the particular item using a the selected carrier and service.

20. A computer system for performing a set of actions for a plurality of users, said computer system programmed to:

automatically notify a second user that a first user has taken an action with respect to an item ordered by the second user.

21. A computer system for performing a set of actions for a plurality of users, said computer system programmed to:

recognize as an action confirmation for a particular item ordered by a second user a selection by a first user of a unique identifier corresponding to the particular ordered item, said selection of the unique identifier from an online electronic list of ordered items, said list corresponding to a next action status regarding the listed ordered items.

22. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

track a shipping status of each of a plurality of parcels, wherein each parcel is shipped by one of a plurality of services offered by one of a plurality of carriers.

23. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

poll an appropriate carrier shipping status system from a plurality of carrier shipping status systems in response to a user tracking request to obtain current tracking status information for a particular package.

24. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

recognize as a tracking request a request by a user to track a particular parcel, said request comprising a tracking number.

25. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

periodically generate signals to an appropriate carrier shipping status system from a plurality of carrier shipping status systems at the electronic address for the carrier computer system requesting shipping status for a particular parcel.

26. A computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels by a

plurality of users using a plurality of carriers, said computer system comprising:

a plurality of server computer devices,

wherein each server computer device is programmed to perform a plurality of activities in support of a particular function, wherein each server computer device is programmed to support a different particular function, and wherein each particular function contributes to managing shipping of the plurality of parcels.

27. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

apply, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, a set of shipping location rules for each of a plurality of carriers to a default shipping location and a set of parcel specifications input by the particular requesting user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

28. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

apply, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, a set of parcel handling rules for each of a plurality of Carriers to a set of parcel specifications for a particular package to be shipped input by the particular requesting user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

29. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

identify, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, each carrier from a plurality of carriers that supports shipping a particular parcel according to a set

of parcel specifications for a particular package input by the particular requesting user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

30. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

collect as parcel specifications for a particular parcel to be shipped by a particular user, user input from the particular user from a plurality of users, said parcel specifications comprising at least one of: a package type, package dimensions, package weight, and a value of the particular parcel, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network; and

store in a database a record corresponding to the particular user , said record comprising an identifier for the particular user and the parcel specifications for the particular parcel.

31. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

instruct each remote user client computer device of a plurality of remote user client computer devices over a global communications network to recognize a weight of a parcel as measured by a digital scale configured with a remote user client computer device; and

instruct each remote user client computer device of the plurality of remote user client computer devices to return a weight to the shipping management computer system.

32. The shipping management computer system of Claim 31, said shipping management computer system further programmed to:

receive a weight communicated by each remote user client computer device over a global communications network, wherein the remote user client computer device is

configured with a digital scale.

33. A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed to:

display to each of a plurality of users upon each user's request a preview of shipping rates for the particular user to ship a particular package, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, wherein each user having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

34. A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed to:

calculate for each of a plurality of users upon each user's request a shipping rate for each of a plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers for shipping a particular parcel, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, wherein each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

35. A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed to:

determine for each of a plurality of users upon each user's request a delivery schedule for each of a plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers for shipping a particular parcel, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, wherein each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

36. A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed to:

display to each of a plurality of users, upon each user's request, as to each particular

parcel to be shipped by the particular user, an identification of each of a plurality of carriers that provide a plurality of delivery notification service options, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, and wherein each user client computer device has an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

37. A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed to:

calculate, upon each request by each of a plurality of users, as to each particular parcel to be shipped by a particular user, a service charge by each carrier for each delivery notification service option that the particular carrier supports for delivery of the particular package to be shipped by the particular user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, and wherein each user client computer device has an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

38. A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed to:

identify to each of a plurality of users, upon each user's request, as to each particular parcel to be shipped by the particular user, a service charge by each carrier for each delivery notification service option that the particular carrier supports for delivery of the particular package to be shipped by the particular user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, and wherein each user client computer device has an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

39. A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed to:

display to each of a plurality of users, upon each user's request, as to each particular

parcel to be shipped by the particular user, an identification of each of a plurality of carriers that provide a plurality of delivery service options, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, and wherein each user client computer device has an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

40. A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed to:

calculate, upon each request by each of a plurality of users, as to each particular parcel to be shipped by a particular user, a service charge by each carrier for each service option that the particular carrier supports for delivery of the particular package to be shipped by the particular user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, and wherein each user client computer device has an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

41. A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed to:

identify to each of a plurality of users, upon each user's request, as to each particular parcel to be shipped by the particular user, a service charge by each carrier for each service option that the particular carrier supports for delivery of the particular package to be shipped by the particular user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, and wherein each user client computer device has an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

42. A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed to:

display to each of a plurality of users, upon each user's request, as to each particular

parcel to be shipped by each user, an online interactive graphic comparison of a plurality of shipping rates calculated for each of a plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers to ship a particular parcel, each shipping rate corresponding to a particular service offered by a particular carrier for delivering the particular parcel to a particular delivery destination at a particular parcel delivery time on a particular parcel delivery date, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, and wherein each user has an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

43. An online interactive shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed to:

regenerate a display of shipping information at any particular remote user client computer device of a plurality of remote user client computer devices, based on modified input by a particular user at a particular remote user client computer device, wherein the computer system communicates with each remote user client computer device over a global communications network.

44. An online interactive shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed to:

execute a set of computer instructions for generating an interactive user interface display of rating and schedule shipping information with a set of data input by a particular user from a particular remote user client computer device connected to the computer system over a global communications network; and

generate the interactive user interface shipping information display comprising the data input by the particular user, a result of the executed set of computer instructions, at least one data collection field initialized with a data item from the data input by the particular user, and an instruction to execute the executable set of instructions in response to a user modification of data in the data collection field.

45. The online interactive shipping management computer system of Claim 43, said computer system further programmed to:

distribute with the interactive user interface shipping information display to the client computer device an executable set of the executed computer instructions with the instruction to execute the executable set of instructions in response to a user modification of the initialized data in the data collection field.

46. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

apply, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, a set of billing option rules for each of a plurality of carriers to a single billing option preference input by the particular requesting user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

47. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

identify, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, each carrier from a plurality of carriers that supports a particular billing option preference input by the particular requesting user for shipping a particular parcel, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

48. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

collect as a billing option preference for each particular user of a plurality of users a user input from the particular user of an identification of a billing option preference for parcels to be shipped by the particular user, wherein each user accesses the computer system

over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network; and

store in a database a record corresponding to each particular user, said record comprising an identifier for the particular user and the billing option preference for the particular user.

49. The shipping management computer system of Claim 48, said shipping management computer system further programmed to:

identify, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, each carrier from a plurality of carriers that supports shipping a particular parcel wherein the particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel characteristics, wherein said set of parcel characteristics translate into a particular ratable weight according to dimensional weight calculation rules for each of the plurality of carriers, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

50. A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed to:

determine for each of a plurality of users upon input by each user of a particular origin postal code and a particular destination postal code an origin rating zone identifier corresponding to the particular origin postal code for each of a plurality of carriers, and a destination rating zone identifier corresponding to the particular destination postal code for each of the plurality of carriers, wherein each user accesses the shipping management computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, and wherein each user client computer device has an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

51. A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed

to:

determine from a set of delivery times for each of a plurality of services for each of a plurality of carriers a potential delivery schedule for each of the plurality of services for each of the plurality of carriers in response to a request by each of a plurality of users to ship a particular parcel, wherein each user accesses the shipping management computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, and wherein each user client computer device has an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

52. A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed to:

recognize, in response to a particular user of a plurality of users using a particular remote user client computer device to print a shipping label for shipping a particular parcel using a particular carrier from a plurality of carriers, a set of graphic resolution characteristics of a printer device configured with the particular remote user client computer device, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a remote user client computer device, each remote user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

53. The computer system of Claim 52, said computer system further programmed to:

create a shipping label image bearing a dimensionally accurate symbology for display on a display device configured with the particular remote user client computer device for printing on the particular printer device.